



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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July 29, 2011

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TO: SACHI A. HAMAI  
Executive Officer  
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: JOHN F. KRATTLI   
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisor's Agenda**  
**County Claims Board Recommendation**  
**Leana Awad, et al. v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. TC 023 805**

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary, and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisor's agenda.

JFK:rfm

Attachments

## Board Agenda

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Leana Awad, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. TC 023 805, in the amount of \$475,000 plus assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the amount of \$22,418.86, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This lawsuit arises from treatment received by a patient while hospitalized at the Harbor/UCLA Medical Center.

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Leana Awad, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	TC 023805
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court - South Central District
DATE FILED	December 9, 2009
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$475,000 and assumption of the Medi-Cal lien in the amount of \$22,418.86
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Robert Stone, Esq. Stone, Dolginer & Wenzel
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian - Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On August 7, 2009, Leana Awad, a 6-year-old female, underwent a surgical procedure at Harbor/ UCLA Medical Center ("HUMC"). During the procedure, a complication occurred, and a blood vessel in the patient's neck area was injured.</p> <p>Leana Awad, through her Guardian Ad Litem, filed a medical malpractice case against the County of Los Angeles contending that the staff at HUMC performed the procedure negligently, thereby causing injuries to the plaintiff.</p>

In her lawsuit, the plaintiff seeks damages for future medical care and pain and suffering.

The County of Los Angeles proposes a settlement in the amount of \$475,000; as part of this settlement, the County of Los Angeles will also assume the Medi-Cal lien in the amount of \$22,418.86

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE

\$50,298

PAID COSTS, TO DATE

\$25,271.90

Case Name: AWAD, LEANA



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	August 7, 2009
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On August 7, 2009, Leana Awad, a six year-old girl, underwent a surgical procedure at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center. During the procedure, a complication occurred and a blood vessel in the patient's neck area was injured.

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

Injury to a blood vessel during a surgical procedure.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)


- Appropriate personnel actions were done.
- An educational conference was held to discuss technique for the prevention of this type of complication.
- A system wide survey was conducted regarding resident procedural competency processes. All DHS facilities using residents have processes in place to track and document competency.

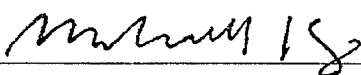
3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:  
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance)

- ☐ Potentially has Countywide implications.
- ☐ Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- ☒ Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

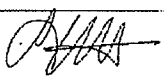
County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Kimberly McKenzie, RN, MSN, CPHQ	
Signature: 	Date: 5/3/11

Name: (Department Head) Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.	
Signature: 	Date: 5/10/11

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name: LEO COSTANTINO	
Signature: 	Date: 5/3/11

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